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Yale made a notable beginning (23 *Yale Law Journal*, 16; 26 *id.* 169, 191) and the new edition of Anson is based on his analysis of fundamental legal concepts. This is its special appeal, and although the effort occasionally tortures the thought, the effort itself and its accomplishment alike command our thanks.

Beside leavening the work with Hohfeld's thinking, the editor has conscientiously gathered the recent American case authorities, has set forth the latest monographic literature, and although the book has been heretofore reviewed with some peevishness by a writer who overlooks the obvious fact that an editor rewarms the dish rather than cooks a new one, has not failed to add illuminating critical comment of his own. (See 33 *Harvard Law Review*, 626.) In lending countenance,* though, to the decisions which declare an offer which contemplates acceptance by act irrevocable after the called-for act has been merely begun, we think he departs from the fundamental concepts of contract formation. The mystery of consideration, too, remains a mystery, but who may completely explain that slippery formalism, at bottom a device for making the world safer for the talkative, itself defeated by the gratuitous declaration of trust! The chapter on contracts for the benefit of third persons in the United States, wholly the work of the American editor, is excellent; as is also the discussion of assignment and of "impossibility."

G. H. Robinson.

* Elaborated in article in 26 *Yale Law Journal*, 169, 191.

THE CONSTITUTION AND WHAT IT MEANS TODAY. By Edward S. Corwin. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, 1920. pp. xxiii, 114.

This little book by Professor Corwin of Princeton University contains the text of the Constitution of the United States, including the Nineteenth Amendment, with explanation of all the passages which seem at all obscure. The work is prefaced by a brief account of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, of the causes which impelled its calling, and of the adoption of the Constitution through "the grinding necessities of a reluctant people." A study of the first post-Revolutionary decade would be an instructive discipline to the American people of today. The Constitution as adopted was a minority document but, as Professor Corwin says, it did not long remain such. "Less than a decade had passed ere it had become an object of popular veneration, the rallying point of every considerable political force in the country. What Bagehot says of the British monarchy may indeed be repeated of the Constitution for by far the greater part of its existence. It has 'strengthened government with the strength of religion.'"

Any one who has occasion, as every American citizen has, to consult the Constitution, and to know its interpretation expressed briefly and simply, will make use of this convenient manual.

Wm. Carey Jones.